

VZCZCXRO5951
PP RUEHBI
DE RUEHLM #1161 3641239
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 291239Z DEC 08
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9090
INFO RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 1200
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 8199
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 6415
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 4619
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 2478
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 4574
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3680
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 8842
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 6227
RUEHON/AMCONSUL TORONTO 0801
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 3070
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS

UNCLAS COLOMBO 001161

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/INS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [CE](#)

SUBJECT: SRI LANKA: SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 8 OUTSIDE OF CIVIL
DEFENSE FORCE CAMP

11. (U) At about 8:45 a.m. on December 28, a presumed LTTE suicide bomber killed himself, seven Civil Defense Force (CDF) personnel and one civilian in an attack on a CDF office in Wattala, a northern Colombo suburb. (Note: the Civil Defense Force, formerly the Home Guards, are roughly analogous to the National Guard in the U.S. End Note) At least 17 others were injured in the bombing, some seriously. According to Sri Lankan press reports, the attacker entered the compound after visiting a weekly fair held at a nearby church. CDF guards stopped him at a checkpoint, preventing him from entering the office. The bomber then exploded his suicide vest.

Nadesan Gives Interview;
Previews More Attacks to Come

12. (SBU) The attack comes a week after LTTE Political Wing Chief Nadesan conductd interviews with the BBC and Reuters. Observers interpreted his statements to mean that the LTTE would begin to switch from conventional to guerilla tactics, attacking more "soft" targets in the South - such as military checkpoints. Nadesan specifically mentioned economic targets that would place pressure on the government as it struggles under a growing level of debt.

13. (SBU) COMMENT: As the LTTE continues to lose territory in the North we can expect to see a corresponding increase in the number of attacks in the South. These attacks, as Nadesan previewed, are intended to increase the economic and other costs to the government of continuing its offensive in the North.
Blake